Raising of Interest Rate on C.P.F.

1648. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals from INTUC of unions have been received by Government to effect an increase in the interest rates on the Contributory Provident Fund amounts if so, what are the detail thereof;

(b) what is the total amount of accumulated Contributory Provident Fund as present;

(c) what is the persent number of subscribers towards the Fund at present; and

(d) what is the number of complaints so far received during the current year regarding undue delay in disposing of claims applications and what steps have been taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. Some Trade Unions have suggested further liberalisation of the procribed pattern of investment of the provident fund money, so as to augment the earnings of the fund and to pay to the subscribers higher rate of interest on their provident fund accumulations;

(b) and (c) The total number of subscribers and the provident fund accumulations as on 31-3-1985 was as under:

	No. of subscribers (in lakhs)	Provident Fund accumulation (Rupees in crores)
Exempted :	40.20	6,575.97
Unexempted :	39.10	5,263.72
Total :	129 30	11,839 69

(d) The Employees Provident Fund Organisation is reported to have received 5261 complaints during the year ended 31st March, 1985.

The measures taken or proposed to be taken for redressing the grievances and expediting the settlement of claims are as given below:

(1) Instructions for completion and submission of the plictions forms have been got printed in English|Hindi| Regional languages and appended to the claim forms;

(2) The procedure for scrutiny and disposal of claims have been simplified;

(3) Standard work sheets and check lists have been devised for expeditious scrutiny of claims;

(4) It has been made obligatory on the part of the employer to get the application forms filled up by members at the time of leaving service for onward transmission to the Provident Fund Office, duly attested by him.

Reduction of Duty on Viscose and Staple Fibres

1649. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the duty on viscose and Steple fibres; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) There has been no reduction of duty on viscose fibre. On polyester and acrylic fibre, excised duty was reduced with effect from the 28th August, 1985.

(b) The duty reductions were effected with the objective of increasing production of cloth of acceptable quality at reasonable prices pursuant to the Textile Policy Statement of 1985.